

Application No. 09/964,221
SD-7650

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

• Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (cancelled)
2. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein ~~the steps of~~ applying the transformation generate encrypted data that is indistinguishable from Gaussian white noise.
3. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein ~~the steps of~~ applying the transformation comprises normalizing the measurements.
4. (currently amended): The method of claim 3 wherein the normalizing step comprises centering and scale-transforming the measurements so that the mean is zero and the standard deviation is 1 ~~are fixed~~.
5. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein ~~the steps of~~ applying the transformation comprises permuting the measurements.
6. (original): The method of claim 5 wherein permuting comprises employing an item of secret information.
7. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein permuting comprises employing a passcode.
8. (original): The method of claim 7 wherein permuting additionally comprises employing the results of a hash function of the passcode.
9. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein ~~the steps of~~ applying the transformation comprises employing a linear transformation.

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10. (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein employing a linear transformation comprises employing a $n \times m$ linear transformation matrix, W , with orthonormal columns, where $n \leq m$.
11. (original): The method of claim 10 wherein employing a linear transformation comprises employing a normalized Hadamard matrix.
12. (original): The method of claim 10 wherein employing a linear transformation comprises employing a normalized matrix comprising Fourier coefficients with a cosine / sine basis.
13. (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein the employing a linear transformation comprises permuting the linearly transformed data.
14. (original): The method of claim 13 wherein permuting the linearly transformed data comprises employing an item of secret information.
15. (original): The method of claim 14 wherein permuting the linearly transformed data comprises employing a passcode.
16. (original): The method of claim 15 wherein permuting the linearly transformed data additionally comprises employing the results of a hash function of the passcode.
17. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein the measurements comprise biometric data.
18. (original): The method of claim 17 wherein the measurements comprise measurements selected from the group consisting of fingerprints, retinal scans, facial scans, hand geometry, spectral data, and voice data.

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19. (currently amended): The method of claim 17, additionally comprising the step of placing ~~the reference template~~ biometric data on a smart card to be carried by an individual from whom the biometric data was taken.
20. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, wherein the measurements comprise spectral data.
21. (original): The method of claim 20 wherein the measurements comprise weapons spectra.
22. (currently amended): The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 42, additionally comprising the step of adding pseudo-dimensions to the measurements to enhance concealment.
- 23-41. (Cancelled)
42. (New): A method of authenticating an item, the method comprising:
- a) acquiring an unencrypted reference signal, Y_{ref} , of an item; where Y_{ref} is an n -dimensional row vector $\{Y_1(ref), Y_2(ref), \dots, Y_n(ref)\}$ of unencrypted reference measurements subject to measurement error;
 - b) applying a transformation to the unencrypted reference signal, Y_{ref} , to generate an encrypted reference signal, U_{ref} of the item; where U_{ref} is an n -dimensional row vector $\{U_1(ref), U_2(ref), \dots, U_n(ref)\}$ of encrypted reference measurements;
 - c) acquiring an unencrypted new signal, Y_{new} , of the item, where Y_{new} is an n -dimensional row vector $\{Y_1(new), Y_2(new), \dots, Y_n(new)\}$ of unencrypted new measurements subject to measurement error;

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- d) applying the transformation to the unencrypted new signal, Y_{new} , to generate an encrypted new signal, U_{new} , of the item; where U_{new} is an n -dimensional row vector $\{U_1(new), U_2(new), \dots, U_n(new)\}$ of encrypted new measurements;
- e) calculating an unencrypted Euclidean distance metric, E , between the unencrypted new and reference signals, Y_{new} and Y_{ref} ;
- f) calculating an encrypted Euclidean distance metric, D , between the encrypted new and reference measurements, U_{new} and U_{ref} ;
- g) comparing the encrypted Euclidean distance metric, D , to a critical value, D_{crit} , and;
- e) if $D < D_{crit}$, then deciding that the item is authentic;
- wherein the transformation has the property that the unencrypted Euclidean distance metric, E , is equal to the encrypted Euclidean distance metric, D .

43. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein:

$$E = \sum_{j=1}^n (Y_j(\text{new}) - Y_j(\text{reference}))^2;$$

and

$$D = \sum_{j=1}^m (U_j(\text{new}) - U_j(\text{reference}))^2;$$

wherein $m \leq n$.

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44. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein:

$$E = \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{(Y_j(\text{new}) - Y_j(\text{reference}))^2}{Y_j};$$

and

$$D = \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{(U_j(\text{new}) - U_j(\text{reference}))^2}{Y_j};$$

wherein $m \leq n$; and the denominator can be either $Y_j(\text{new})$ or $Y_j(\text{reference})$.

45. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein:

$$E = \sum_{j=1}^n \left(\sqrt{Y_j}(\text{new}) - \sqrt{Y_j}(\text{reference}) \right)^2;$$

and

$$D = \sum_{j=1}^m \left(\sqrt{U_j}(\text{new}) - \sqrt{U_j}(\text{reference}) \right)^2;$$

wherein $m \leq n$.

46. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the elements, w_{ij} , of the transformation matrix, \mathbf{W} , have the following properties:

$$\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ij}^2 = 1, \forall j;$$

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$$w_{i1} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}, \forall i; \text{ and}$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^n w_{ij} = 0, \forall j=1 \text{ with } w_{i1} = K, \forall i.$$

47. (new) The method of claim 42, wherein applying the transformation to the unencrypted signal, Y , comprises:

$$Y \rightarrow Y_{\pi} \rightarrow Y_{\pi} \cdot W \rightarrow (Y_{\pi} \cdot W)_{\sigma}$$

wherein:

π is a *permutation* of the integers from $1:n$ that is unique to a particular verification class;

W is an $n \times m$ transformation matrix with orthonormal columns that transforms the vector, Y , of measurements to $m \leq n$ latent variables; and

σ is a *permutation* of the integers from $1:m$ that is unique to the particular verification class; and

wherein the verification class comprises one or more physical units, items, or individuals.